

# Democratic Presidential Debate at CSU

Lihua Feng (Leah Feng Patuwo)

The February 26, 2008 Democratic Presidential Debate at Cleveland State University was the most important and exciting presidential debate in the history of the United States: One woman, Senator Hillary Clinton, representing the female gender versus one African American, Senator Barack Obama, representing the minorities. I am sure all Cleveland area residents and especially CSU faculty and students were bubbling with excitement over the evening debate at Wolstein Center. The Debate was sponsored by MSNBC and moderated by Brian Williams, the anchor of "NBC Nightly News, and Tim Russert, the NBC News' Washington Bureau Chief and the host of NBC "Meet the Press."

Cleveland China Town is just around the corner from where the debate took place. Being a Chinese American woman and a U.S. citizen, it was an honor to be in the audience at the debate. Mrs. Anne Pu, the ECJ publisher, and I were fortunate to get the front seat to watch the debate on the stage closely and take good pictures. The Wolstein Center was filled with people from all walks of life: famous movie actors and actresses, Governor Ted Strickland, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Dr. Michael Schwartz, President of CSU and many students and faculty. It was an in-depth and good debate. Both Senator Clinton and Senator Obama are eloquent and forceful in presenting their points of view. The debate centered around the issues of health care, trade, their own campaign tactics, war on Iraq and foreign policy.

The first 16 minutes was spent debating over the health care plan for the nation. Both candidates propose universal health coverage to be made available for everybody. On many aspects, their plans are similar. But Senator Clinton's plan requires everyone to enroll where as Obama's plan does not — only children are required to enroll. He has not clearly indicated how everyone would be motivated to enroll. Mrs. Clinton objected to Obama's accusation that she would force people to have health care coverage whether they can afford it or not. Clinton said her proposal would not force low-income Americans into poverty by compelling them to pay for full health care coverage. Instead it will include surplus funding to subsidize coverage for families that could not afford it.

On the delicate trade issue for the Ohioan, both stated that they would renegotiate NAFTA, the free trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Neither said that they were ready to withdraw from the trade agreements. Senator Clinton said she would make sure that there would be core labor safety and environmental standards in the agreement and it would be enforceable. Senator Clinton pointed out that the Cleveland Plain Dealer examined Senator Obama's attacks on her regarding NAFTA and found they were erroneous.

The 2008 Presidential Election is getting closer. It is very important for every citizen to participate in this important event. Doesn't matter whether you are Asian, Latino, African American, Native American or Caucasian, we all are united. Each can make his or her own choice to elect the best next president to lead our great country.

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## Why Asian Americans in Ohio and Pennsylvania Should Support Barack Obama



All I really ever needed to know, I learned as an Asian American growing up in the communities not too far from Lake Erie. I grew up in Parma and North Royalton, went to high school in Cleveland, and my parents now live in Strongsville. (During football season I still root for the Browns, Steelers, and Bengals, in that order). I was taught values such as hard work, respect for others, the importance of community, and the power of hope. I also learned what it felt like to be a minority growing up in America, and the challenges that we all face on a daily basis. That is why I believe Asian Americans should support Senator Barack Obama for President.

Senator Obama would be a better President than any other candidate for our nation, especially for the Asian American community. After enduring seven years of one of the most divisive Presidents in U.S. history—with one of the worst foreign policies in our history—the next President should be someone who can unify this nation and not further divide us, and someone who can inspire us all to reach higher. I believe Senator Obama is that person.

Senator Obama is also the only candidate who has consistently opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), an Agreement that has significantly hurt the economies of both Ohio and Pennsylvania. If elected President, Senator Obama would reform our trade policies so that they no longer devastate communities in Pennsylvania and Ohio, communities where I grew up and where my parents still live.

Senator Obama's approach to governance is also fundamentally different than any other candidate. Senator Obama makes a concerted effort to reach out to independents and moderate Republicans. The Asian

American community, in contrast to other minority communities, has significantly more registered independents and moderate Republicans. To truly get bold initiatives accomplished, what we need is a working majority that gets people to work together, not further partisanship.

The promise of our nation will only be realized when, in the great words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., people are judged on the content of their character and not the color of their skin. The fact that Senator Obama has an excellent chance of being the first minority in the White House is already a giant leap forward for America. When the ocean of tolerance rises, all boats rise with it.

I also firmly believe Senator Obama will have one of the most inclusive administrations in history. As a veteran in the United States Air Force, my last active duty assignment was in California, which is where I currently live. Now as an elected state representative and Chair of the Asian American Legislative Caucus in the state legislature, I have strongly advocated for appointing more minority candidates to judicial and political positions. I believe Senator Obama would make far more minority appointments if elected President than anyone else currently running because he, of all people, understands what it means to not be white in America.

I believe America can, and must, change. I ask you to join me in supporting Senator Obama by voting for him on March 4th.

**Ted W. Lieu**  
*California State Assemblymember*  
*Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus*



## 小知識

現在世界有 21 位女性當過總統(代總統除外),至今還有 7 位在任。就任時年紀最輕者 39 歲,最老者達 79 歲

世界第一位女總統是阿根廷的伊莎貝爾·貝隆夫人,1974 年 7 月 1 日至 1976 年 3 月 24 日在任,就職時 43 歲。

亞洲第一位女總統是菲律賓的科拉松·阿基諾夫人,1986 年 2 月 25 日至 1992 年 6 月 30 日在任,當選時 53 歲。

北美第一位女總統是海地的艾爾塔·帕斯卡爾·特魯洛夫人,1990 年 3 月 13 日至 1991 年 2 月 7 日在任,就任時 47 歲。

東歐的第一位女總統是前東德的薩賓娜·伯格曼·普爾夫人,1990 年 4 月 5 日至 10 月 2 日在任,當選時 44 歲。

愛爾蘭第一位女總統瑪麗·羅賓遜夫人,1990 年 12 月 3 日至 1997 年 9 月 12 日在任,當選時 46 歲。

圭亞那第一位女總統珍妮特·賈根夫人,1997 年 12 月 19 日至 1999 年 8 月 11 日在任,當選時 77 歲,為年齡最大的女總統。

進入 21 世紀的第一位女總統是菲律賓的格羅麗亞·馬卡帕加爾-阿羅約夫人,2001 年 1 月 20 日至今在任,就職時 53 歲。

印尼第一位女總統梅加瓦蒂·蘇加諾普特麗,2001 年 7 月 23 日至今在任,就職時 54 歲。

希拉里于 1947 年出生于美国伊利诺伊州,從小就表現出爭強好勝的一面。15 歲時,希拉里就對政治產生了濃厚的興趣,她常常在下課後與幾個要好的同學,討論時政問題或組織模擬政府進行裁決。

從耶魯大學畢業時,她是當時 27 名女生中的佼佼者。1975 年,已是全美百佳律師的希拉里,放棄了在華盛頓的律師工作,來到阿肯色州嫁給了大學同窗克林頓。有人說,希拉里的愛情觀極為現實,那就是抓住了克林頓,就抓住了希望,魅力、才幹超凡的克林頓是她上昇的基石。

克林頓競選總統時,希拉里一改女強人的形象,換上長裙,剪掉劉海。希拉里讓人們看到了一個女強人甘願為政治而做出的改變。不過,在克林頓擔任總統期間,希拉里並沒有扮演傳統意義

希拉里還能不能再進白宮?

## A Letter from Victoria to Hillary

Dear Hillary,

I had been able to get many votes here for you in PA but I don't know how to help in Texas and Ohio except to solicit contributions. I have pledges of some contributions and I had asked that they write the checks to Hillary for President. Please e-mail me back ASAP if that's correct and where I can sent them to. I will also make plans for events such as Asian Americans for Hillary and parties for Hillary with the hope of obtaining on site contribution. If you have any pins, placards, posters or signs that we can display, please sent some over and I can make color prints if we need more.



At a dinner last night with some friends (some are Romney supporters but switch to Hillary after he backs out), we came to the concurrence that you should play the gender cards! I am sure Pres. Clinton will agree for how you had stand up strong and held high ground during the testing crisis of his presidency.

Through-out history women leaders had stood out to change the tide when their country is in shamble and morals bankrupt. And many women leaders lead their nation to glorious era. Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir, Woman Emperor Wu Zhe Tien of China, even as recent as Benizar Bhutto of Pakistan shall in life and in death affects and inspires their nation toward progressive political development.

More than ever, our country needs a woman president. Our country's economy in shambles, national securities abuses our civil liberty rights, morals low, international respects at rock bottoms. When in a family, the father fails, the mother always stood up and take charge and whatever necessary to solve the problems and Change the situation. The father, well, sometimes just quit or run away. (Ironically, Barak Obama's father did just that. We need a change, a big change!

**WE NEED A WOMAN IN CHARGE FOR A CHANCE!!!**

We had been very blessed that at this moment in history that we have a very remarkable intelligent experience women senator who also was a first lady during a very progressive and successful presidency. A very passionate and compassionate, knowledgeable and hard-working lady, willing to run for the presidency. A very rare species indeed and she can turn this country from the disastrous conditions of a failed administration to a

progressive, peoples oriented, physically and economically sound new era. Needless to say, with Hillary Clinton as president, the world will respect us more!!

So, let's get the message out ASAP.!

With all my heart and care,

**Victoria Coon, Ph.D**

.P.S. I had send some contributions but the next one will with the other checks which I need can address to send to. Hillary Clinton <info@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Dear Victoria,

Here's what you need to know this morning. We were outspent in Wisconsin by a 4 to 1 margin on ads — and we can't let that happen on March 4.

If we want to win in Texas, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Vermont, we've got to even the odds. We can't let the Obama campaign overwhelm us financially. Today, I am calling on you and other online supporters to act together, making sure we have the resources to create a fair, level playing field on March 4.

Contribute now to help us level the playing field. Let this remarkable two-person contest for the Democratic nomination be determined by the strength of our ideas, the quality of our leadership, or the depth of our experience. But whatever you do, don't let the outcome of these crucial March 4 contests be decided by a lopsided spending advantage for the Obama campaign.

Only you — our incredible online community — can act quickly and decisively enough to create a level playing field. And with everything on the line, that's exactly what I'm asking you to do.

We're putting everything on the line. Contribute now.

There are just two weeks left before voters go to the polls in one of the most crucial days of voting yet. We must make sure we can hold our own against an avalanche of Obama TV ads, direct mail, phone calls, and online advertising.

I have total confidence that, as long as we have the resources to compete, March 4 will be a day of dramatic victories for our campaign. Let's make it happen.

Thanks,  
**Hillary Rodham Clinton**

上的第一夫人,她參與、從事了大量社會活動,先後出訪過 50 個國家。

1999 年,當克林頓與萊溫斯基的性醜聞仍然是人們津津樂道的話題時,希拉里宣佈要競選紐約州參議員。2000 年 11 月,克林頓卸任總統之前的兩個月,她成功當選參議員,並成為美國歷史上首位成功競選公職的第一夫人。

6 年間,希拉里憑藉自己非凡的政治才能和孜孜不倦的工作,在被稱為“老男孩俱樂部”的參議院內站穩了腳跟,贏得了尊重。因此在 2006 年的中期選舉中,輕鬆擊敗對手獲得了紐約州參議員的連任。

2007 年 1 月 20 日,正式宣佈將參加 2008 年的美國總統大選。如故她被選上總統,她將是美國歷史上第一個女總統。